



## Two for the Price of One? 2012 Australia-Harvard Fellowships announced

Two for the price of one? When the first of this year's Australia-Harvard Fellows, Dr Rima E. Rudd ScD, MSPH, arrived in Adelaide recently to begin her three-month research visit, we were in for a pleasant surprise. She brought her husband Dr John Comings EdD, himself an accomplished Harvard researcher at the Graduate School of Education in the field of adult learning. (John was paying his own way.) Only one problem: by the look of Rima's schedule, growing busier as each day passes, she and John won't get much time together! Rima's speciality is health literacy. She is a rare expert in upgrading communications between health professionals and the public that they serve. Her mission is to reduce misunderstandings and thereby improve health outcomes. Calls are flowing in from all over eastern Australia for appointments, proof of high demand for her advice.

Dr Rudd spearheads an array of eight Australia-Harvard Fellows (A-HFs) coming here for research collaborations during 2012, all of them funded by donations from Harvard Club of Australia Foundation. In summary, seven Australian universities are represented plus four institutions, several hospitals and a government centre of excellence, located variously in five mainland Australian states. The most prominent hosts, each with two A-HF researchers attending, are University of Western Australia, Monash University, and University of Sydney. Every one of the research themes this year involves life sciences; they range from immunology to sleep studies (two projects) through to cancer radiotherapy and biomedical engineering. As well, the Foundation awarded Fellowships to two senior Australian researchers, enabling them to continue collaborations with previous incoming visitors back at their Harvard-based laboratories. The total of ten awards for this year is a record, mainly because we were able to use funds not spent last year when we received fewer applications due to global uncertainties.



Dr Rima Rudd &  
Dr John Comings

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The online [A-HF Roll of Honour](#) lists all 40 Australia-Harvard Fellowships granted to date, including this year's awards. It describes the nature of each research project, the names and locations of the research collaborators, the host institutions and, for completed projects, links to their wrap reports and outcome success stories.

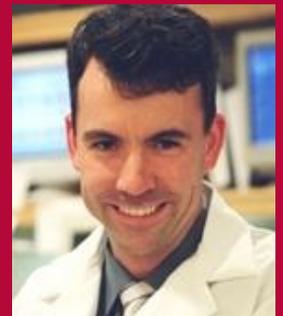
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In brief, and in alphabetical order, the 2012 Fellows are:

- **Professor Paul Allen**, MD, PhD, Professor of Anaesthesia, Harvard Medical School. He aims to identify new approaches to the treatment of steroid-resistant asthma and airway hyper-reactivity in collaboration with Professor Cristobal dos Remedios at University of Sydney and Professor Paul Foster at University of Newcastle.
- **Dr Laura K Barger**, PhD, MMSc, an Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School's Div of Sleep Medicine. Dr Barger will extend her research on the association between work hours, sleep deficiency and motor vehicle crashes, through collaborations with researchers at Monash University, Austin Hospital, Melbourne, and interstate universities.
- **Professor Ron Kikinis**, MD, Robert Greenes Distinguished Director of Biomedical Informatics, Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School. After presenting workshops in Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane and meeting with neurosurgeons and neuro-radiologists there, Professor Kikinis will work with Professor Karol Miller at Intelligent Systems for Medicine Laboratory, at the University of Western Australia.
- **Dr Christopher P. Landrigan**, MD, MPH, Director, Sleep & Patient Safety Program, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Assoc Prof of Medicine and Paediatrics, Harvard Medical School. Dr Landrigan will conduct a pilot patient safety surveillance study with Professor Peter Cameron at Monash University, then visit Sydney Children's Hospital to discuss patient safety, Sydney University's Centre for Integrated Research & Understanding of Sleep to discuss his work on Resident clinicians' sleep deprivation and medical errors; followed by work with the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission.
- **Dr Soroosh Radfar**, PhD, Research Fellow, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Dept of Cancer Immunology and AIDS, and Dept of Pathology, Harvard Medical School conducts research on the immune system aimed at a little-studied lymphocyte population known as CD8 Treg in order to define its potential contribution in regulating infectious disease. In Perth, at the Lions Eye Institute and the University of Western Australia, Dr Radfar will exploit the recent identification of this CD8 Treg sub-population, coupled with his collaborator Dr Jerome Coudert's research on the Ly49H receptor located on Natural Killer cells that play a major role in the rejection of virus infections, to define how these cells can control the viral replication.
- **Professor Vicki Rosen**, PhD, Professor of Developmental Biology, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, will present lectures in two areas of research: the role of bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs) in bone



Dr Laura Barger



Dr Chris Landrigan



Professor Vicki Rosen



Professor Paul Foster

and joint development, and the use of BMPs in bone and joint repair and regeneration in the adult skeleton. Also she will host seminars with postgraduate students and fellows from the schools of Surgery and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of W.A. with Professor Jiake Xu, and at various faculties of the University of Sydney with Assoc Prof. Hala Zreiqat.

- **Dr Rima E. Rudd**, ScD, MSPH, Senior Lecturer, Department of Society, Human Development & Health, Harvard School of Public Health, has been invited to the University of Adelaide (Professor Robert Adams) on a visiting professorship to raise awareness in the area of health literacy. She will also visit and develop proposals in health literacy with others including Maureen Johnson at Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne and Dr Karen Luxford at NSW Government's Clinical Excellence Commission.
- **Dr Joao Seco**, PhD, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology, Harvard Medical School, will collaborate with Dr Andrew Fielding on the development of Monte Carlo and optimisation techniques at Queensland University of Technology for use in radiation therapy of lung cancer using arc beam delivery and multi-criteria optimisations.

Australians awarded 2012 Fellowships for collaborative research at Harvard are:

- **Assoc. Prof. Diane Fatkin**, MB BS, MD, FRACP, Laboratory head, Sister Bernice Research Program in Inherited Heart Disease, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Sydney. During six months at the laboratory of Professors Christine and Jon Seidman at Harvard Medical School's Dept of Genetic Studies, Dr Fatkin aims to utilise next-generation sequencing technologies to identify genetic variants in a cohort of Australian families with dilated cardiomyopathy.
- **Professor Paul S Foster**, BSc PhD DSc. Laureate Professor and Director, Priority Research Centre for Asthma and Respiratory Disease, School of Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy, Faculty of Health, University of Newcastle, will work for four months at the laboratory of Professor Richard L Stevens at Harvard Medical School to identify the roles of certain mast cell proteins and ribonucleic acids in the control of antiviral immune responses and allergic inflammation of the airways.

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Throughout 2012, members of Harvard Clubs in each State will be invited to a variety of welcome events and public presentations by our distinguished Australia-Harvard Fellowship visitors and their equally accomplished Australian collaborators. We trust you will join us in congratulating our award



Professor Paul Allen



Dr Diane Fatkin



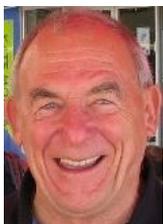
Professor Ron Kikinis



Dr Joao Seco

recipients and will look forward to news of their scientific advances and innovative contributions to Australia's research and education fabric.

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John Turner  
Chairman & Secretary  
Australia- Harvard Fellowship Program  
Harvard Club of Australia Foundation

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## **Australia-Harvard Fellowship seeks helpers**

*Australia-Harvard Fellowship is Harvard Club of Australia Foundation's flagship project under the Foundation's mission: to promote learned exchange between Harvard University and Australia. Since 2004, the Foundation has made 40 fellowship awards, 10 of them this year alone.*

*Driving it forward are a small band of Harvard Club volunteers, each giving some of their spare time to make it happen. Their main job is to select and monitor bright scientists and technologists who come and undertake valuable research collaborations for the benefit of Australia. Other tasks are to welcome the visitors and introduce them to Harvard Club members in each State, to promote our program in Club media, and to make sure the results of Fellowship research collaborations are confirmed, recorded and publicised so that Harvard Club members see value for their money and the broader public comes to recognise our important contribution to Australian-based scientific research.*

***If you think this might interest you, and you have a little time to offer, John Turner would be delighted to discuss possible volunteer roles with you. Please contact John by email [ahf@harvard.org.au](mailto:ahf@harvard.org.au) or phone: 02 9328 2366.***

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